

Amendment
Serial No. 10/563,245
Attorney Docket No. 053542

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 were pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 12 were rejected. Claims 1 and 12 are herein cancelled without prejudice.

Applicants' Response to Objections to the Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification on the grounds that it contains language alleging benefits. The Office Action refers to MPEP §608.01(b) which states that “[t]he abstract should not refer to purported merits or speculative applications of the invention and should not compare the invention with the prior art.” Thus, it appears that the Office Action objects to the final sentence of the abstract. In response, Applicants herein amend the abstract in order to delete this sentence. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the title of the invention on the grounds that it is not descriptive. The Office Action requires a new title that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, Applicants herein amend the title of the invention as follows:

LOCK ASSEMBLY FOR ATTACHMENT TO A LAN-CABLE CONNECTOR

Applicants respectfully submit that this new title is sufficiently descriptive. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

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Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Carney et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,740,168).

It is the position of the Office Action that Carney discloses the invention as claimed. Carney is directed at a locking device for telephone subscriber plugs. Carney discloses three embodiments of locking devices. In the first embodiment, illustrated in Figures 1-4, a slidable cover 27 locks the plug 22 in place, and is retained by lock 41. In the second embodiment, illustrated in Figures 5-7, flanges 63 and 64 of the lock 60 lock the plug 22 in place. Finally, in the third embodiment, illustrated in Figures 8 and 9, a movable member 76 locks the plug 22 in place, and is retained by a padlock 82.

Thus, Carney only teaches the general concept of a lock for a cable plug. Carney does not disclose or suggest any of the specific elements of the present invention. Applicants herein cancel claim 1 and incorporate its subject matter into claim 2, which the Office Action states recites allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 is moot and that claims 2-13 are allowable. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants' Response to Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Carney in view of Marson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,911,646).

It is the position of the Office Action that Carney discloses the invention as claimed, with the exception of teaching a plurality of connectors and cables. The Office Action relies on

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Marson to provide this teaching. As illustrated in Figure 1, Marson discloses an access cabinet 100 having a plurality of jack security devices 130, to lock plugs in jack positions 110. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to modify Carney to have a plurality of cables and connectors, in view of case law stating that merely duplicating a part for multiple effect is not grounds for a patent.

In response, similar to claim 1 above, Applicants herein cancel claim 12 and incorporate its subject matter into claim 13, which the Office Action states recites allowable subject matter. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 12 is moot and that claims 13-25 are allowable. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 2-11 and 13-25 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As noted above, Applicants herein incorporate the subject matter of claims 1 and 12 into claims 2 and 13, respectively. Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are therefore in condition for allowance.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

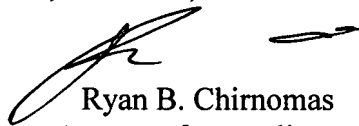
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Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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